

# Department of Early Learning

## 10.1.6

### Window Blind and Covering Procedure

Licensing Staff must:

1. Provide information on RCW 43.215.360 at orientations and licensing visits.
2. Provide information from Consumer Products Safety Commission on the hazards posed by window coverings with pull cords or inner cords capable of forming a loop.
3. Provide technical assistance to applicants or licensees to help meet this law, such as information on retrofitting existing window blind and window covering cords, available from the Window Covering Safety Council.
4. Inspect licensed areas and areas that are accessible to children in child care facilities for compliance at any licensing visit.
5. Issue a compliance agreement, citing RCW 43.215.360, window blind and window covering cords that do not meet the requirements of this law.
6. Require that window blinds or window coverings that do not meet this requirement are:
  - a. Permanently retrofitted; or
  - b. Pull cords are cut so that a loop is not present and inner cords cannot be pulled to form a loop or pose a risk of strangulation; or
  - c. Taken down immediately.
7. Licensors must determine if the cords are permanently retrofitted, and ensure that:
  - a. The outer loop on the end of the pull cords is eliminated by:
    - i. Installing the free repair kit to the existing blinds;
    - ii. Cut the loops and install the safety tassel at the end of each pull cord.
    - iii. In the professional judgment of the licensor, any other permanent retrofit of the cords is acceptable.
  - b. The inner loop is formed when the inner cords that raises the slates of the blinds are pulled, this is eliminated by:
    - i. Installing the free repair kit which includes a small plastic attachment to prevent inner cords from being pulled loose. This may or may not be effective.
    - ii. In the professional judgment of the licensor, any other permanent retrofit of the cords is acceptable.
8. Follow up with a site visit within 14 business days to verify compliance with this law unless the window blind or covering is removed while licensor is on-site.
9. All licensee contact regarding window blinds and coverings must be documented in FamLink within five business days.

Licensing Procedure: Window Blind and Covering Policy

Created: 4/1/08

1

Effective: 10/1/09-4/1/11

# Department of Early Learning

## Definitions

Accessible to children: This includes areas of the facility and materials that children can easily get to on their own.

Young Children – Children under 12 years of age for family homes and 13 for centers.